

FINAL NOTES - THIS WEEK'S STUDY - 9/4-5/2023 - #Four – Song of Solomon (Son 5:2 – 6:10) Communion Broken Again. Restoration.

Classroom Location and Zoom – Sign In information, below at end of the notes;

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OPENING PRAYER

Review; Jesus Christ and His Bride:

(Eph 5:32) This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

(Rev 19:7-9) Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." [8] And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. [9] Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

We will break the Book into six sections:—.

1. The Unsatisfied Life and its Remedy. (Son 1:2-2:7)
2. Communion Broken. Restoration. (Son 2:8-3:5)
3. Unbroken Communion. (Son 3:6-5:1)
4. Communion again Broken. Restoration. (Son 5:2-6:10)
5. Fruits of Recognized Union. (Son 16:11-8:4)
6. Unrestrained Communion. (Son 8:5-14)

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Communion again Broken. Restoration. (Son 5:2-6:10)

- We have the fourth section beginning with an address of the bride to the daughters of Jerusalem, telling them of her recent sad experience, and asking them for help. The presence and comfort of her Bridegroom are again lost to her; not this time by relapse into worldliness, but by lazy self-indulgence. We are not told of the steps that led to her failure; or if she found place in her heart again. But we see the door of her chamber was not only closed, but barred; an evidence that His return was neither eagerly desired nor expected. The snare this time was the more dangerous and insidious because it was quite unsuspected.

The Bride Searches for Her Beloved

Son 5:2 I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my Beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for Me, My sister, My love, My dove, My perfect (flawless, blameless) one; For My head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night.

- **The bride speaks again about an experience. It's like a dream and yet it seems to be more real than just a dream.** She is there at night, asleep in her bed. She hears this voice; she's sleeping yet her heart is awake. She hears this voice calling for her to open the door. There are times when the Lord calls us into fellowship. Many times He is just longing for that close intimacy. Come, spend some time with Me. How many times do we pass it off saying, "Lord I am so busy, I'm doing this and that. I'm so busy!"
- **"I sleep, but my heart is awake."** Paradoxes abound in Christian experience, and here is one—the spouse was asleep, and yet she was awake. The two points in this evening's text are; a mournful sleepiness and a hopeful wakefulness. I sleep. Through sin that dwelleth in us we may become lax in holy duties, slothful in religious exercises, dull in spiritual joys, and altogether supine and careless.
- **My heart is awake. This is a happy sign. Life is not extinct, though sadly smothered.** When our renewed heart struggles against our natural heaviness, we should be grateful to sovereign grace for keeping a little vitality within the body of this death. Jesus will hear our hearts, will help our hearts, will visit our hearts; for the voice of the wakeful heart is really the voice of our Beloved, saying, "Open to me." Holy zeal will surely unbar the door. (Spurgeon) **Am I awake or asleep?**
- **He knocks!** How often the position of the Bridegroom is that of a knocking Suitor outside, (Rev 3:20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to

him and dine with him, and he with Me. It is sad that He should be outside a closed door—that He should need to knock; but still more sad that He should knock, and knock in vain at the door of any heart.

- **Open for (to) me, My sister, My love, My dove, My perfect one!** Very touching are His words: “Open to Me (a new call?), My sister” (Indicating divine life was in her); “My love” (the object of My heart’s devotion), “My dove” (one who has been given so many gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit); “My perfect one” (washed, renewed, and cleansed for Me); and He urges her to open the door, indicating to share even a reproach of shame with her Bridegroom-Lover, to receive Him as a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief. (*Isa 53:4b*) *Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. (Joh15:18)* “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.
- **For my head is covered (drenched) with dew, My locks with the drops of the night.**” Why is it that His head is filled with the dew? **Drops of the night.** The Garden of Gethsemane? (*Luk 22:44*) *And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.* Because His heart is a shepherd’s heart. There are those whom the Father has given to Him who are wandering on the dark mountains of sin. Many, oh, how many, have never heard the Shepherd’s voice? Many, too, who were once in the fold have wandered away, far away from its safe shelter. Will she, who so recently was at His side, who joyfully braved the dens of lions and the mountains of leopards, will she leave Him to seek alone the wandering and the lost?

Son 5:3 I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them?

- **She has settled down for the night and has no wish to be disturbed or troubled by anyone**, not even her husband! She doesn’t want to put her robe on again and get up out of bed. It is too inconvenient for her having just washed her feet. But it is not that she cannot get up out of bed but that she will not.
- **Impossibility is not the problem, unwillingness is!** The bed is too warm, and she is too comfortable and getting up again would be too inconvenient! Notice the frequent use of the personal pronoun “I.” She is thinking only of herself. Instead of getting up and running to meet Christ in the means of grace and places of duty, we see this pathetic selfish excuse. How frequent is it, that in one season of life, nothing is too much to do, suffer, denying oneself for Christ? Yet in the very next moment a condition arises such as is recorded here, where Christ Himself can be turned away with no sense of concern at all! We are reminded of always being ready to do what the Lord calls for us to do. (Luk 12:35-36) “Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; [36] and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.

Son 5:4 My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door, And my heart yearned for Him.

- **The door was not only latched, but barred;** and His effort to secure an entrance was in vain.
- **My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door, And my heart yearned for him.** Knocking was not enough, for my heart was too full of sleep, too cold and ungrateful to arise and open the door, but the touch of His effectual grace has made my soul bestir itself. Oh, the longsuffering of my Beloved, to tarry when He found Himself shut out, and me asleep upon the bed of sloth! Oh, the greatness of His patience, to knock and knock again, and to add His voice to His knockings, beseeching me to open to Him! How could I have refused Him! Base heart, blush and be confounded! Am I yearning for Him?
- **But what greatest kindness of all is this, that He becomes His own porter and unbars the door Himself.** Thrice blessed is the hand which condescends to lift the latch and turn the key. Now I see that nothing, but my Lord’s own power can save such a naughty mass of wickedness as I am; ordinances fail, even the gospel has no effect upon me, till His hand is stretched out. Now, also, I perceive that His hand is good where all else is unsuccessful, He can open when nothing else will.
- **Blessed be His name, Sweetest and dearest of all beloveds, I have treated Thee as an unfaithful wife treats her husband. Oh, my cruel sins, my cruel self. What can I do? Tears are a poor show of my repentance, my whole heart boils with indignation at myself. Wretch that I am, to treat my Lord, my All in All, my exceeding great joy, as though He were a stranger. Jesus, thou forgives. (Spurgeon)**

Son 5:5 I arose to open for my beloved, And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the lock.

- **He had taken hold of the handles of the lock and the sense of Him, the perfume, was still there** as she took hold of the handle. It was like her hand was touching the myrrh that had come from His hand as He had hold of the handle.
- **Even though of her indifferent state and being only half awake she speaks of Christ as her beloved.** It took her a little time to get the door open. It’s not clear whether the perfume was on the bride’s hands

already or whether she took time after getting out of bed to anoint herself with it. It may have been left on the handles of the lock from the bridegroom's hand. However, when she eventually got the door open, she expected to see her Beloved, who had just been speaking to her, wanting her to come. But what a surprise!

Son 5:6 I opened for my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

- **Those times when the Lord has called us for this intimacy, this communion, and this close fellowship with Him and we are slow to respond! We are too late! The Lord has withdrawn Himself. What a feeling of forlorn emptiness when we lose the consciousness of His presence, when we feel the absence of His nearness. Can that be said of me? Do I have a tendency to be slow to respond; too late?**
- **When, all too late, the bride did arise, she seems to have been more concerned to anoint herself with the liquid myrrh than speedily welcoming her waiting Lord. She was more occupied with her own graces than with His desire. No words of welcome were uttered, though her heart failed within her; and the grieved One had withdrawn Himself before she was ready to receive Him. Again, as in the third chapter, she had to go forth alone to seek her Lord. This time her experiences were much more painful than on the former occasion.**
- **I called Him, but He gave me no answer. Prayer sometimes tarries, 'like a petitioner at the gate, until the King cometh forth to fill her bosom with the blessings which she seeketh. The Lord, when He hath given great faith, has been known to try it by long delaying. He has suffered His servants' voices to echo in their ears as from a brazen sky. They have knocked at the golden gate, but it has remained immovable, as though it were rusted upon its hinges. But we must be careful not to take delays in prayer for denials: God's long-dated bills will be punctually honored; we must not suffer Satan to shake our confidence in the God of truth by pointing to our unanswered prayers. Unanswered petitions are not unheard. By-and-by, thy suit shall prevail.**
- **Canst thou not be content to wait a little? Will not thy Lord's time be better than thy time? By-and-by He will comfortably appear, to thy soul's joy, and make thee put away the sackcloth and ashes of long waiting, and put on the scarlet and fine linen of full fruition. (Spurgeon)**

Son 5:7 The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; The keepers of the walls Took my veil away from me.

- **Then turning to the young maidens. Her first relapse had been one of inexperience.** If a second relapse had been brought about by inadvertence, she should at least have been ready and prompt when summoned to obey. It is no small thing to fall into the habit of being tardy in obedience, even in the case of a believer. In the case of the unbeliever the final issue of disobedience is inexpressibly awful.
- **The backsliding of the bride, though painful, was not final; for it was followed by true repentance.** She went forth into the darkness and sought Him; she called, but He responded not, and the watchmen finding her, both struck and wounded her. They appear to have appreciated the gravity of her declining Him more correctly than she had done. Believers may be blinded to their own inconsistencies; others, however, note them; and the higher the position with regard to our Lord, the more surely will any failure be visited with reproach.
- **Wounded, dishonored, unsuccessful in her search, and almost in despair,** the bride turns to the daughters of Jerusalem, recounting the story of her sorrows, urging them to tell her Beloved that she is not unfaithful or unmindful of Him.

Son 5:8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, That you tell him I am lovesick!

- **The reply of the daughters of Jerusalem shows very clearly that the sorrow-stricken bride, wandering in the dark, is not recognized as the bride of the King, though her personal beauty does not escape notice.**
- **I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, That you tell him I am lovesick! Such is the language of the believer panting after present fellowship with Jesus, he is sick for his Lord. Gracious souls are never perfectly at ease except they are in a state of nearness to Christ; for when they are away from Him they lose their peace. The nearer to Him, the nearer to the perfect calm of heaven; the nearer to Him, the fuller the heart is, not only of peace, but of life, and vigor, and joy, for these all depend on constant intercourse with Jesus. What the sun is to the day, what the moon is to the night, what the dew is to the flower, such is Jesus Christ to us.**
- **This earnest longing after Jesus has a blessing attending it: "Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness"; and therefore, supremely blessed are they who thirst after the Righteous One. Blessed is that hunger, since it comes from God. If I may not feed on Jesus, it shall be next door to heaven to hunger and thirst after Him. There is a hallowedness about that hunger, since it sparkles among the beatitudes of**

our Lord. But the blessing involves a promise. Such hungry ones "shall be filled" with what they are desiring. If Christ thus causes us to long after Himself, He will certainly satisfy those longings; and when He does come to us, as come He will, oh, how sweet it will be! (Spurgeon)

Son 5:9 What is your beloved More than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved More than another beloved, That you so charge us?

- **What makes Him so wonderful? What makes Him so great?** So she answers them. The daughters of Jerusalem did not possess the full life of the new creation, but they could recognize the superior quality of the life in this loved maiden. Her spiritual beauty, remarkable humility in the new creation life, her holy character, and her touch of glory where all worthy features recognized by them, even if they themselves did not bear such virtues. It was true that at the moment she had lost the light of her Beloved's countenance, but she was still *"the fairest among women,"* the most beautiful of beauties, for she possessed that beauty which could not pass away.
- **By way of comparison, Christ has no rival in the matter of perfection of character!** None can compare with Him! Some inevitably do compare Him with other men, not seeing that He is an absolute in the perfection of His humanity. This beloved did indeed excel far above all other beloveds. One thing is very remarkable, namely the revelation which we formally received of the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit can sometimes become very hazy but can never be completely lost!
- **This question, implying that her Beloved was no more than any other,** stirs her soul to its deepest depths; and, forgetting herself, she pours out from the fulness of her heart a soul-ravishing description of the glory and beauty of her Lord!

The Bride Praises Her Beloved

Son 5:10 *My beloved is white and ruddy, Chief among ten thousand.*

- ***My beloved is white and ruddy.*** We have here a general description of Christ's and how far separate He was from sinners. His whiteness was not pale or death white, but white and ruddy, meaning perfect health! We remember Samuel's choosing David to succeed Saul. **(Isa 16:12)** *So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"* It was the health glow of youth. We see how in the higher realms of spiritual life the Lord makes Himself known to be full of the power of life even having upon Himself the glow of eternal youth.
- ***Chief among ten thousand.*** He is thus known, the one to whom all His people rally. Forever, He is the banner of His people. **(Isa 59:19)** *So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. The banner means the cross! The Lord Jesus was the One lifted high as the banner; of the Lamb that was slain!* Wherever His name is proclaimed, tens of thousands rallied to Him! None can rival Him!

Son 5:11 *His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy, And black as a raven.*

- ***By the head of Jesus we may understand His deity, "for the head of Christ is God" and then the ingot of purest gold is the best conceivable metaphor, but all too poor to describe one so precious, so pure, so dear, so glorious. Jesus is not a grain of gold, but a vast globe of it, a priceless mass of treasure such as earth and heaven cannot excel. He is forever infinitely holy and altogether divine. The bushy locks depict His manly vigor. There is nothing effeminate in our Beloved. He is the manliest of men.***
- ***Bold as a lion, laborious as an ox, swift as an eagle. Every conceivable and inconceivable beauty is to be found in Him, though once He was despised and rejected of men. "His head the finest gold; With secret sweet perfume, His curled locks hang all as black As any raven's plume." He is eternally crowned with peerless majesty. Others grow languid with age, but He is forever a Priest as was Melchisedek; others come and go, but He abides as God upon His throne, world without end.***
- ***We will behold Him tonight and adore Him.*** Angels are gazing upon Him. His redeemed must not turn away their eyes from Him. Where else is there such a Beloved? O for an hour's fellowship with Him! Away, ye intruding cares! Jesus draws me, and I run after Him. (Spurgeon)

Son 5:12 *His eyes are like doves By the rivers of waters, Washed with milk, And fitly set.*

- ***His eyes are like doves.*** The eyes are the seat of expression, speaking of an intimacy known by His spouse. Here we learn how near this loved maiden had come to Him, that she could describe such expression. The Holy Spirit came upon the Lord as a dove and the most beautiful feature of a dove is its

eyes. It was the Spirit's anointing which made the Lord's eyes so tender in their expression of love to His loved ones.

- **By the rivers of waters are brooks signifying the shining sparkle of those eyes**, glistening with tender affection. *Washed with milk* means that His inward thoughts shining through were so pure they had a purifying expansion purifying effect upon her. *And fitly set*, meaning well positioned or properly located, which show He viewed her with great favor and understanding. The eyes of the Lord are His instruments of tender expression towards those believers who go on to mature affections. To such His eyes are as beautiful as dove's eyes full of life, free from disease or pollution, expressing pure thoughts of love and focusing with well-proportioned division. Thus, He was never in danger of seeing wrongly or seeing the wrong thing!

Son 5:13 His cheeks are like a bed of spices, Banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, Dripping liquid myrrh.

- **His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers.** *Come my soul, put on thine holiday attire and go forth to gather garlands of heavenly thoughts. Thou knowest whither to betake thyself, for to thee "the beds of spices" are well known, and thou hast so often smelt the perfume of "the sweet flowers," that thou wilt go at once to thy well-beloved and find all loveliness, all joy in Him.*
- **That cheek once so rudely smitten with a rod, oft bedewed with tears of sympathy, and then defiled with spittle-that cheek as it smiles with mercy is as fragrant aromatic to my heart.** *Thou didst not hide Thy face from shame and spitting, O Lord Jesus, and therefore I will find my dearest delight in praising Thee. Those cheeks were furrowed by the plough of grief, and crimsoned with red lines of blood from Thy thorn-crowned temples; such marks of love unbounded cannot but charm my soul far more than "pillars of perfume."*
- **In Jesus I find not only fragrance, but a bed of spices; not one flower, but all manner of sweet flowers.** *He is to me my rose and my lily, my heart's-ease and my cluster of camphire. Precious Lord Jesus, let me in very deed know the blessedness which dwells in abiding, unbroken fellowship with Thee. I am a poor worthless one, whose cheek Thou hast deigned to kiss! O let me kiss Thee in return with the kisses of my lips. (Spurgeon)*
- **Dripping liquid myrrh, of sweet savor, not only indicating the fragrance of graciousness**, but also the identification which this one had with Him in His death. The implication is that in her life, His death stood out in clear tones in its outworking. The drops of myrrh which fell from His lips and all that He uttered in words of grace and blessing came to her because of His death on the cross. Whether such words proclaimed, "Thy sins be forgiven, Go in peace, or Believe and live, or Rise and walk." All such wonderful and gracious words were spoken on the strength of His redeeming death on the cross.

Son 5:14 His hands are rods (rings) of gold Set with beryl. His body is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires.

- **His hands are rods of gold Set with beryl.** Great men had their hands adorned with gold rings on their fingers, set with diamonds or other precious stones, but, in her eye, His hands themselves were as gold rings! All the instances of His power, the works of His hands, all the performances of His providence and grace, are all rich, and pure, and precious, as gold, as the precious onyx and the sapphire, all fitted to the purpose for which they were designed as gold rings to the finger, and all beautiful and very becoming, as rings set with beryl. His hands, which are stretched forth both to receive His people and to give to them, are thus rich and beautiful!
- **His body is carved (bright or polished) ivory Inlaid (decorated, covered) with sapphires.** The sense of these words describing His body is that of a work of art. The polished whiteness of ivory is combined here with the Azure blue of the choicest sapphires. Beauty, perfection, symmetry, form are suggested even that of the one who says of Himself to mankind, **(Joh 8:23) And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.** She continues, not deviating from her theme, indicating how utterly incomparable her Beloved is!

Son 5:15 His legs are pillars of marble Set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, Excellent as the cedars.

- **His legs are pillars of marble Set on bases of fine gold, signifying His power to stand.** The word for *marble* is exactly the same as translated as fine linen in other scriptures, pointing to our Lord's inherent righteousness. His legs being as pillars speak of His stability, thus she speaks of her beloved in all that He was in Himself, and all that He had established in the strength of His righteousness, as having immovable stability. There is nothing in His life or work which could be shaken the least bit. This is the impression left upon all who follow Him fully. Three times she has mentioned fine gold and at different times she has referred to the thoughts of His mind and the works of His hands, and now here to

the stability of His steps. The gold in scripture is always indicative of the divine nature, the attributes of God. Thus we are led to see that it was God who was expressing Himself through His Son, sustaining Him in all His ways, and finding full satisfaction and delight in Him through His being perfectly yielded.

- ***His countenance is like Lebanon, Excellent as the cedars.*** High above the levels and standards of earth was this Blessed One who dwelt in the high and lofty heavenlies. Everything around him was of a heavenly nature excellent as the Cedars show something of his elevated character. Though a Man, yet He was now a Man glorified in the heights of heaven. As the tall and stately Cedars, tower and transcend above all other trees so likewise was the Lord singularly exalted as the One Man whom the Father honored and glorified!

Son 5:16 *His mouth is most sweet, Yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, And this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!*

- **Many times we find it difficult to really relate to people what Jesus means to us;** “fairer than ten thousand, He is the lily of the valley! He is the bright and morning star! He is the *altogether lovely* One. We seek to relate to others the beauty and the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Yes, He is altogether lovely. Oh Lord, You are beautiful!** The superlative beauty of Jesus is all-attracting; it is not so much to be admired as to be loved. He is more than pleasant and fair, He is lovely. Surely the people of God can fully justify the use of this golden word, for He is the object of their warmest love, a love founded on the intrinsic excellence of His person, the complete perfection of His charms.
- **Look, O disciples of Jesus, to your Master's lips, and say, His mouth is most sweet!** Do not His words cause your hearts to burn within you as He talks with you by the way? Ye worshippers of Immanuel, look up to His head of much fine gold, and tell me, are not His thoughts precious unto you? Is not your adoration sweetened with affection as ye humbly bow before that countenance, which is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars?
- **Is there not a charm in His every feature, and is not His whole person fragrant** with such a savor of His good ointments, that therefore the virgins love Him? Is there one member of His glorious body which is not attractive?-one portion of His person which is not a fresh lodestone to our souls?-one office which is not a strong cord to bind your heart?
- **Our love is not as a seal set upon His heart of love alone; it is fastened upon His arm of power also;** nor is there a single part of Him upon which it does not fix itself. We anoint His whole person with the sweet spikenard of our fervent love. His whole life we would imitate; His whole character we would transcribe. In all other beings we see some lack, in Him there is all perfection. The best even of His favored saints have had blots upon their garments and wrinkles upon their brows;
- **He is nothing but loveliness.** All earthly suns have their spots: the fair world itself hath its wilderness; we cannot love the whole of the most lovely thing; but Christ Jesus is gold without alloy-light without darkness-glory without cloud-“Yea, He is altogether lovely.” (Spurgeon)

Son 6:1 *Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, That we may seek him with you?*

- **Having heard the maiden's testimony the daughters of Jerusalem now desired to go out themselves** to search for Him, which naturally followed after a hearing of the testimony. In the maiden's love they had seen the full effect of the new creation work! She was filled with the freshness of that new creation life. In her appreciation she proclaimed the Christ as she knew experientially, which was so different from her their own intellectual approach to Him. Does that describe me? You? No wonder there was a sense of power about her, a peculiar drawing power! No wonder they continued to praise her as the “*fairest among women,*” the supremely beautiful among beautiful.
- **The question which troubled them, however, was if He were altogether lovely, where could He have gone** and how could He have hidden Himself from them? They repeatedly inquired of her as to His whereabouts so they could find Him in the same way implying that if they could not do so, then He must be estranged from her too. This kind of questioning they had included more than a suggestion that she knew Him to be altogether lovely she ought to know exactly where to locate Him, guiding them to Him. They have been impressed by her witness. They want to seek Him with her. How often are people looking to you to find Jesus?

Together in the Garden of Love

Son 6:2 My beloved has gone to His garden, To the beds of spices, To feed His flock in the gardens, And to gather lilies.

- **The bride is ready with her answer. My beloved has gone to His garden,** which is a description of Christ's church as a company gathered out of the world. So where has He gone? The answer is that He is in His church! He is to be found among His people! Note the emphatic personal pronoun of possession. He is in His garden, which He has planted and of which He takes care that He may be glorified. The church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is both its Bridegroom and its Head! The reference to Christ being in His garden is emphasized, where He was all along, though disregarded and unenjoyed by His bride!.
- **He has gone to His garden, To the beds of spices, To feed His flock in the gardens, And to gather lilies.** Christ is pictured here in the place He most delights to be, enjoying the fellowship of His people on earth and the presence of His people in heaven! What a tender and inviting picture cries gathering of His lilies is! The entire plan and work of divine grace and salvation may be seen precisely in those terms.
- **Election in Christ before the foundation of the world. The coming of Christ into the world to save** His people from their sins. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Christian life is a life of deepening communion with Christ and growing lightness to Him. Finally the taking of His Saints to glory and all that follows at His coming return that has been prepared for the endless ages of eternity with Christ. (**Php 1:23**) For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. All of this is a gathering of Christ's lilies, which are precious, fragrant, and beautiful in His sight. Here, the church is like a lily among thorns. In heaven there will be no thorns, only lilies. Believers are to be patient with respect to Christ's timings and are never to begrudge Him the lilies that He gathers.

Son 6:3 I am my beloved's, And my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies.

- **Forlorn and desolate as she might appear she still knows herself as the object of His affections, and claims Him as her own.** This expression, is similar to that found in the second chapter,
- (**Son 2:16**) My beloved is mine, and I am his; and yet with a noteworthy difference. Then her first thought of Christ was of her claim upon Him: Now, His claim upon her was secondary.
- (**Son 6:3a**) I am my beloved's, And my beloved is mine Now **she thinks first of His claim; and only afterwards mentions her own.**
- (**Son 7:10**) I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. We see a still further development, a growing of grace here, where the bride, losing sight of her claim altogether, says, I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. Christ fills the whole picture! (1Jn 4:19) We love Him because He first loved us.
- **For, "He feeds His flock among the lilies,"** (2:16 and 6.3), with this added comment: for all the intensely individual nature of the believer's relationship with Christ, His presencing of Himself and His church, (among the lilies), must never be overlooked or undervalued. (Heb 10:24-25) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, [25] not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Christ is to be enjoyed not only in secret but among the lilies!

Solomon and His Bride Delight in Each Other

Son 6:4 O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah (delight), Lovely as Jerusalem, Awesome as an army with banners!

- **There has been much grieving of her beloved on the bride's part but now all is well again,** and things are restored. Without any hesitation the Bridegroom opens His heart again and speaks in praise of His bride enlarging upon her beauty and all that she means to Him! He does not take her to task, but adopts the most tender language toward her. We remember how Jesus appeared to Peter in (**Joh 21:15**) So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."
- **O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah,** meaning delight or beautiful. There are three expressions of affection and pleasure in this verse. He calls her by the now familiar name *my love*, even after all her coolness and wretched behavior. The first phase compares her beauty to that of Tirzah, which was a city in Samaria whose name means pleasantness, sweetness, delight, agreeable.
- **Lovely as Jerusalem!** The second of the three expressions of affection. Lovely is also beautiful. It carries the sense of lovely to look at, lovely to be with, and lovely to speak with. Why Jerusalem? If Tirzah was striking, Jerusalem was even more so! In a sense, Jerusalem was seen as a place where God dwelt, where He

was worshipped and glorified, the city of our God, His holy mountain, beautiful elevation, the joy of the whole earth!

- **Awesome as an army with banners!** The third expression, awesome as army with banners, pictures that of an army marching forth with banners unfurled, confident of victory, and afraid of no man! The Church of Christ is not only beautiful and lovely but awesome as well. This is significant, note how the church is usually thought of even by those whose grace that belonged to her did. Moreover, the more beautiful His church is in Christ's eyes, the more awesome and terrible will she be in the eyes of her adversaries!

Son 6:5 Turn your eyes away from me, For they have overcome me. Your hair is like a flock of goats Going down from Gilead. Son 6:6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep Which have come up from the washing; Every one bears twins, And none is barren among them. Son 6:7 Like a piece of pomegranate Are your temples behind your veil.

- **One look from His bride has completely overwhelmed the Bridegroom!** He is deeply affected and moved. Her eyes, her love, her faith, everything about her as His bride, ravished Him! Christ is a free forgiver and full forgetter of His people's failures, assuring us that to Him we are as beautiful as ever! He would recall to us our true character, calling us His holy bride. That we should be all the more careful to walk consistently in the light of it. Just think of that! He reminds us that the love of the Lord never changes. (Heb 13:8) *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

Son 6:8 There are sixty queens And eighty concubines, And virgins without number.

- **Pictured here is a vast collection of women. He puts them all together and yet they come nowhere near the Shulamite (His church).** She stands out and she stands alone as she is beyond compare. All these are related in different ways to King Solomon. Looking at this from a worldly viewpoint, it would be considered a great error to have so many lovers, but it is here to teach us a spiritual truth. It is a picture both profound and beautiful!
- **The Lord Jesus desires to possess all believers in the fullest and purest of spiritual affections, in the closest and most intimate relationship!** Corporately speaking, the bride of Christ is but one! Individually speaking however, the measure of affections for Him and the character of relationship to Him differs in believers. These differences are represented by the queens, the concubines, and the virgins. Adam, Isaac, and Moses are all prototypes of Christ, and their brides are figures of the church in a corporate and complete sense. But Solomon is a prototype of Christ in his relation to the individual believer in his own personal life. Solomon is no picture at all of the Lord Jesus Christ, since he fell so short in holiness of life and spiritual behavior. It is not in his personal and unrighteous conduct, but rather in His high and kingly office, that He is a figure of Christ!
- **Individually speaking, then, the love relationship of the believers to the Lord, differs experientially.** Some as such can be represented by queens, others have a kind of concubine nature, and still others are those whose affections are like those of a simple and immature virgin. All these had a love relationship to the King, yet all fell short of that pursuit of the Lord characterized by the loved maiden, and none had her unique place in relationship.

Son 6:9 My dove, my perfect one, Is the only one, The only one of her mother, The favorite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her And called her blessed, The queens and the concubines, And they praised her.

- **In this verse the Spirit of the Lord desires us to see that it is those who fully satisfy the Lord's heart, who alone are to be regarded as unique, "the only one!"** It does not mean that there is only a single believer who ever reached such a state, but that all who have come to spiritual fullness of affections, are regarded as "only one" in the eyes of the Lord! They are undoubtedly a special company who have a special place. This company, represented by this loved maiden, live in the Spirit. They are as a "dove" in the singleness of their eyes for Christ, and "undefiled" in the sense of being completely separated unto Him. **Think of that!**
- **This company, represented by the bride is born of her mother, grace, has progressed, and developed to the fullness of love for the Lord Jesus.** Thus as a complete expression of the working of grace, she was "the favorite one." This grace not only connotes the glorious forgiveness of sins by God, but all of that is wrought in the heart through the years by His constant working. Those, therefore in whom God is able to do much are those who are ever open to receive much! Those in whom a lesser work is done are those who limit God's work in grace within them!
- **God indeed is ever ready to bestow much grace and thus accomplish much work in believers,** but not all permit Him liberty to carry on and complete its work in them. All that stems from self is of imposed law,

that which is of God is all of free grace! The church is full of children of grace, but those who allow that grace to work to its full end and complete accomplishment are few and far between.

- **Here then the king is not saying that such as this loved one is the only one begotten of grace.** What He is saying is that here is one begotten of grace. The favorite one of all, thus begotten. All who belonged to Him are begotten of Him, but here is one who has developed to be fully and totally identified with Him!

Son 6:10 *Who is she who looks forth as the morning, Fair as the moon, Clear as the sun, Awesome as an army with banners?*

- **The Holy Spirit is again speaking through a third party using an exclamatory question** in order to bring out the glory of this loved maiden. In this way the Spirit of God challenges less mature believers to think by means of interrogation, He calls them to pay attention to the full work of God in the life of an advanced soul. Thus they are brought to an understanding of what is pleasing and acceptable to the Lord. We remember Christ doing the same thing, in drawing out the faith of the Syro-Phoenician woman (Mar 7:24-30)
- **Who is she who looks forth as the morning** (daybreak). The chosen of the Lord have come to a new morning through grace. At this stage, her shadows have fled away and there is no remaining darkness in her relationship to Christ. She has now come to live the life of “nothing between.” Although as yet she has not come to the full light of what life had high noon means, yet her life is like the womb of the morning. Her hope shines in the brightness of Daybreak
- **Fair as the moon.** Here attention is drawn here not so much to the size of the moon but to its radiance and beauty. The moon shines with a soft and gentle light. It is in this figure that we see the bride of Christ to be a heavenly creation reflecting the light of the hidden Lord Jesus into the black night of the earth so that those in moral and spiritual darkness may be illuminated and find their paths by such faithful witness.
- **Clear as the sun.** This speaks of the absence of gloom and the fullness of heavenly light. Both the moon and the sun refer to aspects of the heavenly life of the spouse. The implication in the moon is that she is a recipient of grace making her a heavenly body to shine upon the earth as a witness the implication in the sun is that her life is the life of God, and with that heavenly life she lives her life in the Lord and in the Kingdom of the Father. On the one hand, she is, in herself, something dead, and lifeless, and without atmosphere, as the moon is. But she has been made a new heavenly body and is in touch with the hidden sun, Christ, from whom she draws all her light to witness!
- **Awesome as an army with banners?** Not only was she filled with hope concerning the future, and not only in full possession of the heavenly life of Christ, but also one who, in relation to her enemies in every circumstance, was super abundantly triumphant. Her daily song was the song of victory. We may well ask at this point do you know this maiden? Have you seen her? Is this your image? Are you in possession of this glorious life in Christ?
- **Thus the section closes with communion fully restored; the bride reinstated and openly acknowledged by the Bridegroom as His own peerless companion and friend.** The painful experience through which the bride has passed has been filled with lasting good! We have no further indication of interrupted communion, but in the remaining sections only joy and fruitfulness!
- **Lord Jesus, You are beautiful, altogether lovely!**

CLOSING SONG:

Son 5:16 *His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely.*

OH LORD, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL *written and sung by Kieth Green (5:35/5:38)*

“On Monday night, this week, about midnight I wrote a letter to the Lord. I didn’t know where to mail it, so I put it in my Bible I asked Him when are You going to do something about my heart? You know a lot of time has gone by since I met You. It’s starting to harden up. You know, it’s just kind of natural. I want to have baby skin, Lord. I want to have skin like a baby on my heart. I’m starting to get old and wrinkled, and calloused. It’s not that anything I’m doing, it’s because of a lot of things I’m not doing! I stayed up to about 2 am in the morning writing this song.”

*Oh Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek, For when Your eyes are on this child,
Your love abounds to me Oh Lord my body's tired, but You keep reminding me*

*of many holy, tireless men, who spilt their blood for Thee. I want to take your word and shine it all around
But first help me to just, to live it Lord And if I'm doing well, help me to never to make a sound, except to
give all the glory to You Oh Lord my faith is small, and I need a touch from You
Your Book of Books lies undisturbed and the prayers of me to You. Oh Lord, please light the fire That once
burned bright and clear Replace the lamp of my first love That fueled with holy fear
I want to take Your word and shine it all around But first help me just, live it Lord
And if I'm doing good, please help me to never make a sound, except to give all the glory to You
Oh Lord, You're beautiful Your face is all I seek For when your eyes are on this child
Your faith abounds to me. To me....*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and study *Song of Solomon, Chapters 6-7*

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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